Mississippi Beekeeper/Farmer Survey

- Survey conducted online using Survey Monkey
- Distribution was through Farm Bureau List Serve and the Mississippi Beekeeper Association.
- Beekeeper – 68 responses (41.2%)
- Farmer – 97 responses (58.8%)
Beekeeper Responses

- What is the relative size of your operation?
  - 50 or less hives – 73.8% (48)
  - 50-250 hives – 18.5% (12)
  - 250-500 hives – 6.2% (4)
  - 500 or more hives – 1.5% (1)

- How long have you been a beekeeper?
  - 0-5 years – 46.9% (30)
  - 5-10 years – 25% (16)
  - 10-15 years – 4.7% (3)
  - Over 15 years – 23.4% (15)
Over the last 18 months, has your awareness of the importance of pollinator health been enhanced?

- Yes – 84.1% (53)
- No – 15.9% (10)

If yes, please indicate the source of information

- MSU Extension Service – 83.3% (45)
- Farm Bureau – 42.6% (23)
- Bee related publications – 72.2% (39)
- Other beekeepers – 53.7% (29)
- Social Media – 22.2% (12)
- Other Ag Industry Associations - 9.3% (5)
- National or local media sources – 29.6% (16)
In your opinion, what is the most significant production problem for you as a beekeeper?

- Varroa mite/viruses – 1.67
- Small hive beetle – 2.44
- Loss of forage – 3.20
- Pesticide Exposure – 3.36
- Unsure – 4.32
- Theft/vandalism – 4.76
Beekeeper Response cont.

- If your bees are kept near/on row crop farms, do you utilize any of the cooperative standards in the MS Bee Stewardship Program with your farm host?
  - Yes – 30.6% (15)
  - No – 69.4% (34)

- Do you have other standing mitigation arrangements/measures to protect your bees from pesticides on the host farm?
  - Yes – 10.3% (4)
  - No – 89.7% (35)
Beekeeper Response Cont.

- Has the MS Bee Stewardship Program enhanced the dialogue between you and your farm host?
  - Yes – 34.1% (15)
  - No – 65.9% (29)

- Does your farm host take any precautions to reduce pesticide exposures to your bees?
  - Yes – 43.5% (20)
  - No – 56.5% (26)
Farmer Response

- Please indicate the commodities you produce.
  - Cotton – 35.5% (33)
  - Rice – 43.0% (40)
  - Corn – 68.8% (64)
  - Soybeans – 92.5% (86)
  - Milo – 39.8% (37)

- How long have you been engaged in farming?
  - 0-5 years – 3.2% (3)
  - 5-10 years – 7.4% (7)
  - 10-15 years – 12.8% (12)
  - Over 15 years – 76.6% (72)
Farmer Response Cont.

- Over the last 18 months, has your awareness of the importance of pollinator health been enhanced?
  - Yes – 97.8% (91)
  - No – 2.2% (2)

- Have you heard of the Mississippi Bee Stewardship Program?
  - Yes – 93.5% (86)
  - No – 6.5% (6)
Farmer Response Cont.

- Please indicate the source of this information.
  - MSU Extension Service – 76.7% (69)
  - Farm Bureau – 95.6% (86)
  - Ag Press/Publications – 66.7% (60)
  - Other farmers – 22.2% (20)
  - Social media – 23.3% (21)
  - Other Ag Industry Associations - 31.1% (28)
  - National or local media sources – 24.4% (22)
Farmer Response Cont.

- Do you host bees on any portion of your farm?
  - Yes – 42.4% (39)
  - No – 57.6% (53)
- If yes, do you utilize any of the cooperative standards of the Mississippi Bee Stewardship Program on your farm?
  - Yes – 61.1% (22)
  - No – 30.6% (11)
  - N/A – 8.3% (3)
- Has the Stewardship Program enhanced dialogue between you and your beekeeper?
  - Yes – 66.7% (24)
  - No – 13.9% (5)
  - N/A – 19.4% (7)
Farmers Response Cont.

- Do you discuss hive placement with your beekeeper?
  - Yes – 66.7% (24)
  - No – 16.7% (6)

- Do you, or would you modify insecticide applications to better protect bees on your farm?
  - Apply early in the morning – 58.8% (20)
  - Apply later in the afternoon – 61.8% (21)
  - Ensure wind velocity is low – 82.4% (28)
  - Utilize less toxic pesticides – 23.5% (8)
  - Avoid spraying during bloom – 5.9% (2)
  - Nothing – 8.8% (3)
Farmers Response Cont.

- **How do you typically apply insecticides?**
  - Ground – 25.3% (22)
  - Air – 9.2% (8)
  - Both – 65.5% (57)

- **Have you ever discussed insecticide applications in regard to protecting bees with**
  - Farm Workers – 45.1% (32)
  - Ground applicators – 45.1% (32)
  - Aerial applicators – 74.6% (53)
  - Consultants/scouts – 59.2% (42)
  - Surrounding farmers – 38% (27)